

(Ye Have No Part in the Lord)

Joshua 21:1 – 22:34

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God rejoices with those of you who realize the modern-day psychological preaching and teaching about the Bible doesn't have any helpful answers. Only the Word of God – and I don't mean a few verses or passages – I mean the whole thing, from Genesis to Revelation – contains the truthful response to the debilitating questions of life we all face every day in our highly technical and deeply argumentative world society that we find ourselves in. Only the ENTIRE Word of God contains the solution to the failures and difficulties of mankind; and we need to approach Holy Writ that way – in its entirety. To espouse there is another place where life's problems can be worked out is a lie from hell, my friends. That's why I am attempting to teach the Bible properly, correctly and completely to the entire world. No other reason.

Scripture has some desperately barren sections – and we're marching through one of them in our final two reports from Joshua – but there are vast spiritual truths here. If they weren't here, God wouldn't have wasted His time, space, ink, my time and my LIFE trying to point it all out to you. What I mean is: I don't consider it a waste of time learning the Bible in an educated and sincere manner. I'm sure some people do think that, and they are the ones who stopped reading a long time ago. Either way, God is speaking specifically to us here in His Word.

Psychology can only offer temporary, conflicted and empty half-hearted "solutions." The problem is, said solutions will be obsolete within a decade. The psychologist must be continuously updated, and diagnoses revised to stay in tune with your problems. There are no permanent results in the psychological realm; there never has been - and there never will be. Psychology never asserts a stand for – or against – anything. It's like a motor that just hums and purrs but stops dead when the key is turned off

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or if it runs out of fuel. I happen to believe God and I believe this is His Word – and that it is highly effective at transforming lives. The private – and public – response I get to this safari tell me that this is having a tremendous influence on hearts and lives. If I didn't think so, I would have folded a LONG – LONG time ago. Why don't you pray and ask God what He would have you to do for this missionary effort today? ~

XXI

1 Then came near the heads of the fathers of the Levites unto Eleazar the priest, and unto Joshua the son of Nun, and unto the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel;

2 And they spake unto them at Shiloh in the land of Canaan, saying, The LORD commanded by the hand of Moses to give us cities to dwell in, with the suburbs thereof for our cattle.

3 And the children of Israel gave unto the Levites out of their inheritance, at the commandment of the LORD, these cities and their suburbs.

~ We're continuing through the section of Scripture examining the assignment of cities to the Levites. God made it very clear a long time ago the Levites would have no inheritance as far as land is concerned. However, the children of the priestly tribe of Levi were to be given cities scattered throughout the other tribes so they could continue their ministry throughout the entire nation. Naturally, this would dispatch priests throughout the land. Apparently, the problem of the suburbs goes all the way back to Bible times and Bible land....

4 And the lot came out for the families of the Kohathites: and the children of Aaron the priest, which were of the Levites, had by lot out of the tribe of Judah, and out of the tribe of Simeon, and out of the tribe of Benjamin, thirteen cities.

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5 And the rest of the children of Kohath had by lot out of the families of the tribe of Ephraim, and out of the tribe of Dan, and out of the half tribe of Manasseh, ten cities.

6 And the children of Gershon had by lot out of the families of the tribe of Issachar, and out of the tribe of Asher, and out of the tribe of Naphtali, and out of the half tribe of Manasseh in Bashan, thirteen cities.

7 The children of Merari by their families had out of the tribe of Reuben, and out of the tribe of Gad, and out of the tribe of Zebulun, twelve cities.

8 And the children of Israel gave by lot unto the Levites these cities with their suburbs, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.

9 And they gave out of the tribe of the children of Judah, and out of the tribe of the children of Simeon, these cities which are here mentioned by name,

10 Which the children of Aaron, being of the families of the Kohathites, who were of the children of Levi, had: for theirs was the first lot.

11 And they gave them the city of Arba the father of Anak, which city is Hebron, in the hill country of Judah, with the suburbs thereof round about it.

12 But the fields of the city, and the villages thereof, gave they to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for his possession.

13 Thus they gave to the children of Aaron the priest Hebron with her suburbs, to be a city of refuge for the slayer; and Libnah with her suburbs,

14 And Jattir with her suburbs, and Eshtemoa with her suburbs,

15 And Holon with her suburbs, and Debir with her suburbs,

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16 And Ain with her suburbs, and Juttah with her suburbs, and Bethshemesh with her suburbs; nine cities out of those two tribes.

17 And out of the tribe of Benjamin, Gibeon with her suburbs, Geba with her suburbs,

18 Anathoth with her suburbs, and Almon with her suburbs; four cities.

19 All the cities of the children of Aaron, the priests, were thirteen cities with their suburbs.

20 And the families of the children of Kohath, the Levites which remained of the children of Kohath, even they had the cities of their lot out of the tribe of Ephraim.

21 For they gave them Shechem with her suburbs in mount Ephraim, to be a city of refuge for the slayer; and Gezer with her suburbs,

22 And Kibzaim with her suburbs, and Bethhoron with her suburbs; four cities.

23 And out of the tribe of Dan, Eltekeh with her suburbs, Gibbethon with her suburbs,

24 Aijalon with her suburbs, Gathrimmon with her suburbs; four cities.

25 And out of the half tribe of Manasseh, Tanach with her suburbs, and Gathrimmon with her suburbs; two cities.

26 All the cities were ten with their suburbs for the families of the children of Kohath that remained.

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27 And unto the children of Gershon, of the families of the Levites, out of the other half tribe of Manasseh they gave Golan in Bashan with her suburbs, to be a city of refuge for the slayer; and Beeshterah with her suburbs; two cities.

28 And out of the tribe of Issachar, Kishon with her suburbs, Dabareh with her suburbs,

29 Jarmuth with her suburbs, Engannim with her suburbs; four cities.

30 And out of the tribe of Asher, Mishal with her suburbs, Abdon with her suburbs,

31 Helkath with her suburbs, and Rehob with her suburbs; four cities.

32 And out of the tribe of Naphtali, Kedesh in Galilee with her suburbs, to be a city of refuge for the slayer; and Hammothdor with her suburbs, and Kartan with her suburbs; three cities.

33 All the cities of the Gershonites according to their families were thirteen cities with their suburbs.

34 And unto the families of the children of Merari, the rest of the Levites, out of the tribe of Zebulun, Jokneam with her suburbs, and Kartah with her suburbs,

35 Dimnah with her suburbs, Nahalal with her suburbs; four cities.

36 And out of the tribe of Reuben, Bezer with her suburbs, and Jahazah with her suburbs,

37 Kedemoth with her suburbs, and Mephaath with her suburbs; four cities.

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38 And out of the tribe of Gad, Ramoth in Gilead with her suburbs, to be a city of refuge for the slayer; and Mahanaim with her suburbs,

39 Heshbon with her suburbs, Jazer with her suburbs; four cities in all.

40 So all the cities for the children of Merari by their families, which were remaining of the families of the Levites, were by their lot twelve cities.

41 All the cities of the Levites within the possession of the children of Israel were forty and eight cities with their suburbs.

42 These cities were every one with their suburbs round about them: thus were all these cities.

43 And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he swore to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein.

44 And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he swore unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand.

~ So, the land has been divided and allocated. The matter is settled regarding the family of Levi. The children of Israel are in the land of Canaan the Lord had promised to them; but they still only occupy a very – VERY small segment of the designated “Promised Land.” From here, if they are to have any more land, they are going to have to go out and take possession of it. The rule God laid down, which said “... every place the sole of your foot shall tread upon shall be yours,” still stands – but they, likewise, still must put their feet on it if they want it. Well, the enemy has now been subdued and they can enter into rest if they so desire. For us, this translates into the rest of redemption. That is rest you – and ME – so very desperately need. Or, if you need more land, you can go out and possess it. These are deep, lovely spiritual truths.

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We live in an age under tremendous tension and pressures. Information comes at us non-stop from every angle of life. Well, the writer to the Hebrews said, "... there remaineth a rest to the people of God." If you have entered into the rest of God, then you have ceased from your own works; just as God did from His. Interestingly, we are to enter into rest through labor. That means by FAITH! Faith is the only way; and faith is the only invitation that has ever been extended from the Lord our God. Remember, that's when they rejected Christ as King, and He rejected them and their cities, and the invitation became personal. That invitation is still legitimate to anyone who desires to accept Christ as their Savior and Lord. If you are labored and heavy laden, then you can come to Him today and He will give you rest. Are you weary? The Lord thy God is calling you right now if you are reading this; and the people we are studying have entered into that rest. After all that time out in the wilderness, and the fighting of the wars it took to conquer the land and take possession, it must have been a wonderful, thrilling and amazing time of deep satisfaction for every man and family to be given a certain parcel of property to inhabit and cultivate and enjoy the fruits thereof. This had to have been the best time of Israel's lives....

45 There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.

XXII

1 Then Joshua called the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh,

2 And said unto them, Ye have kept all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, and have obeyed my voice in all that I commanded you:

3 Ye have not left your brethren these many days unto this day, but have kept the charge of the commandment of the LORD your God.

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4 And now the LORD your God hath given rest unto your brethren, as he promised them: therefore now return ye, and get you unto your tents, and unto the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side Jordan.

~ One of the first lessons to be learned when studying the Bible properly is to distinguish "TO us" and "FOR us." It is, in fact, critical to understand that distinction clearly. Not all of the Scriptures are directed TO us – but it IS all written FOR us. ALL Scripture is given by the inspiration of God writing through men that He has Personally chosen; and ALL of it is profitable for our learning and for the edification OF DIFFERENT THINGS. It can be for our reproof; it can be for our correction; it can be for our instruction; it can be for our informational knowledge; but it is always written so that we can walk worthy of the high calling of the Lord Jesus Christ! This should be speaking to you as clearly as it speaks to me – IF you are a believer; and God is ONLY speaking to believers right now, friends. If you are an unbeliever – this is not for you.

Personally, I have no intention of EVER crossing physically over the Jordan River. It isn't in my life's plan. I suppose it could still happen; but not because of what is written here. So, this is not written TO us it is written FOR us. Have YOU crossed over Jordan? Did you know you were supposed to, spiritually speaking? The truths we learned back in the reports dealing with Ai and Jericho contain two of the most critical pieces of information in Holy Writ regarding any attempt by us to live the so-called "Christian life." When the children of Israel crossed over the Jordan River, it spoke spiritually to the death and resurrection of Christ. We are identified with Christ in His burial, and we are raised with Him in newness of life. After that crossing, Israel became citizens of the Promised Land of Canaan. From here on, they will be forever identified and inextricably intertwined with the land. The minute they remove from the land they are considered the "wandering Jew."

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Now, as you may know, there were two and a half tribes that didn't cross over Jordan with the rest of the children of Israel as they should have. They did follow through on their oath and send their armies to help their brethren as they were commanded by Moses; and Joshua calls them together now and commends them and rewards them for their faithfulness. Joshua recognizes they have done an honorable thing by helping the nation Israel achieve the victory in driving out the other inhabitants of the land. However, this still comes with a warning to follow the Mosaic System; even though they are going to be residing on the wrong side of the Jordan River....

5 But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

6 So Joshua blessed them, and sent them away: and they went unto their tents.

7 Now to the one half of the tribe of Manasseh Moses had given possession in Bashan: but unto the other half thereof gave Joshua among their brethren on this side Jordan westward. And when Joshua sent them away also unto their tents, then he blessed them,

8 And he spake unto them, saying, Return with much riches unto your tents, and with very much cattle, with silver, and with gold, and with brass, and with iron, and with very much raiment: divide the spoil of your enemies with your brethren.

9 And the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh returned, and departed from the children of Israel out of Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan, to go unto the country of Gilead, to the land of their possession, whereof they were possessed, according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

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10 And when they came unto the borders of Jordan, that are in the land of Canaan, the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh built there an altar by Jordan, a great altar to see to.

~ Alright, it seems odd that, although they resided on the east side of Jordan, they built this altar on the WEST side. Some scholars of yesteryear attempted to conclude the altar was erected on the east side. The ruins were searched for – but were not found until Grosser – the archeologist – discovered them in a very prominent place; and guess where they were – they were on the west side. They are there to this day, too. Well, that’s not all that interesting, but what IS interesting – to me, anyways – is the phrase “... a great altar TO SEE TO.” Literally, that means “an altar great to the sight.” This was an imposing structure that could be seen from way over on the east side; and visible from just about every direction they went in the region. Bishop Horsley said, “... it was a great altar in appearance.” Actually, however, it was not really an altar, because Israel had been instructed on what their altar was to be. This was nothing more than a constructed structure they could look at that would remind them of, well, something. When the rest of the children of Israel heard this was going on, they gathered at Shiloh, and they were not happy about it at all....

11 And the children of Israel heard say, Behold, the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh have built an altar over against the land of Canaan, in the borders of Jordan, at the passage of the children of Israel.

12 And when the children of Israel heard of it, the whole congregation of the children of Israel gathered themselves together at Shiloh, to go up to war against them.

~ In fact, the other children of Israel were so unhappy with this monstrosity they were ready to go to war over it; because they thought they were building an altar to make some other type of strange sacrifice with strange

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fire – maybe even human sacrifice, maybe to offer to Baal; they didn't know – but what they did know is that this would divide the nation. When they came together, the other tribes were told they didn't intend to offer any sacrifices at all. Nonetheless, the danger of division remained; and that was unacceptable....

13 And the children of Israel sent unto the children of Reuben, and to the children of Gad, and to the half tribe of Manasseh, into the land of Gilead, Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest,

14 And with him ten princes, of each chief house a prince throughout all the tribes of Israel; and each one was an head of the house of their fathers among the thousands of Israel.

15 And they came unto the children of Reuben, and to the children of Gad, and to the half tribe of Manasseh, unto the land of Gilead, and they spake with them, saying,

16 Thus saith the whole congregation of the LORD, What trespass is this that ye have committed against the God of Israel, to turn away this day from following the LORD, in that ye have builded you an altar, that ye might rebel this day against the LORD?

17 Is the iniquity of Peor too little for us, from which we are not cleansed until this day, although there was a plague in the congregation of the LORD,

~ These people were well aware of the situation that had happened with Balaam and Balak; and they all well knew Balak had only joined up with them when he learned he couldn't fight against the children of Israel. That intermingling had wreaked absolute chaos and confusion in the camp. Then, the inter-marrying began, and the worshipping of idols began – and that's when God sent the fiery serpents and judgment - and pandemonium

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ensued. Naturally, they were afraid of a repeat performance at this time. Well, the two and a half tribes came up with a very good explanation....

18 But that ye must turn away this day from following the LORD? and it will be, seeing ye rebel to day against the LORD, that to morrow he will be wroth with the whole congregation of Israel.

19 Notwithstanding, if the land of your possession be unclean, then pass ye over unto the land of the possession of the LORD, wherein the LORD'S tabernacle dwelleth, and take possession among us: but rebel not against the LORD, nor rebel against us, in building you an altar beside the altar of the LORD our God.

20 Did not Achan the son of Zerah commit a trespass in the accursed thing, and wrath fell on all the congregation of Israel? and that man perished not alone in his iniquity.

21 Then the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh answered, and said unto the heads of the thousands of Israel,

22 The LORD God of gods, the LORD God of gods, he knoweth, and Israel he shall know; if it be in rebellion, or if in transgression against the LORD, (save us not this day,)

23 That we have built us an altar to turn from following the LORD, or if to offer thereon burnt offering or meat offering, or if to offer peace offerings thereon, let the LORD himself require it;

24 And if we have not rather done it for fear of this thing, saying, In time to come your children might speak unto our children, saying, What have ye to do with the LORD God of Israel?

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25 For the LORD hath made Jordan a border between us and you, ye children of Reuben and children of Gad; ye have no part in the LORD: so shall your children make our children cease from fearing the LORD.

26 Therefore we said, Let us now prepare to build us an altar, not for burnt offering, nor for sacrifice:

27 But that it may be a witness between us, and you, and our generations after us, that we might do the service of the LORD before him with our burnt offerings, and with our sacrifices, and with our peace offerings; that your children may not say to our children in time to come, Ye have no part in the LORD.

28 Therefore said we, that it shall be, when they should so say to us or to our generations in time to come, that we may say again, Behold the pattern of the altar of the LORD, which our fathers made, not for burnt offerings, nor for sacrifices; but it is a witness between us and you.

29 God forbid that we should rebel against the LORD, and turn this day from following the LORD, to build an altar for burnt offerings, for meat offerings, or for sacrifices, beside the altar of the LORD our God that is before his tabernacle.

30 And when Phinehas the priest, and the princes of the congregation and heads of the thousands of Israel which were with him, heard the words that the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the children of Manasseh spake, it pleased them.

31 And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said unto the children of Reuben, and to the children of Gad, and to the children of Manasseh, This day we perceive that the LORD is among us, because ye have not committed this trespass against the LORD: now ye have delivered the children of Israel out of the hand of the LORD.

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~ The explanation the two and a half tribes gave the brethren seemed sincere; there is no doubt about that. The tribes of the nation that were in obedience accepted their explanation, too. It seems they realized they may have been a tad hasty in making a judgment. We fundamentalists are, generally speaking, a little too hasty to make judgments, too. We all do and say things we ought not to say and do, to be quite honest. We believe we are sincere in defending the Word of God but, actually, we're not. It was a mistake to come against their brethren in war. Thank God they acknowledged it and came to an understanding....

32 And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, and the princes, returned from the children of Reuben, and from the children of Gad, out of the land of Gilead, unto the land of Canaan, to the children of Israel, and brought them word again.

33 And the thing pleased the children of Israel; and the children of Israel blessed God, and did not intend to go up against them in battle, to destroy the land wherein the children of Reuben and Gad dwelt.

34 And the children of Reuben and the children of Gad called the altar Ed: for it shall be a witness between us that the LORD is God.

~ *Our Spiritual Safari* end this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God back at the altar Ed – meaning – a witness between us; a witness to the True and Living God. So far, it all sounds good; and many teachers and commentators just leave it at this and place their seal of approval upon it at face value as is presented here. I can find not one single commentary that condemns that altar. Many people question my sources; and that's a huge mistake – for them. If you think for one moment my information isn't straight from God Himself, then you're going to have a difficult time swallowing what's coming up next.

This altar called "Ed" – a witness – will not receive a satisfactory understanding from a simple-minded, cursory and surface explanation. In

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the tabernacle, there was the Brazen Altar – which we have learned all about in Deuteronomy. The children of Israel were commanded in no uncertain terms that was the ONLY altar that was ever to be built. The children of Israel were told to destroy ALL other altars in Deuteronomy chapter twelve verse two and twenty-seven: and, more specifically, in Exodus chapter thirty-four verse thirteen. The ONLY exceptions were the twelve stones that the Lord commanded Moses – not Joshua – Moses was commanded in Deuteronomy chapter twenty-seven verse four thru eight concerning the twelve stones. Well, the two and a half tribes never crossed over; and that became the very thing that divided them.

This horsy altar called “Ed” is prima fascia evidence that division was real in Israel. Later on, this becomes a big problem for them. At the time in which we are studying, it divided east and west; but later it is going to be the division of the northern and southern kingdoms. Here, it’s the division of nine and a half tribes in the west and two and a half tribes in the east; but later, it divides the ten tribes of the north from two in the south. See, the Brazen altar in the tabernacle spoke of unity in Christ, the Person of Christ and the crucifixion of Christ – but “Ed” is an altogether different altar. What we have in “Ed” is a bloodless altar that was nothing but “.... to see to!” “Ed” - IN NO WAY - exalts Jehovah!

I can meet and reason with any man who will exalt the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus even prayed we might be one in Him. That speaks of an organic unity of those who are gathered in Him. I cannot join a group in disobedience that sees to a bloodless altar. Now, read this paragraph and the next SUPER carefully because I hope to be very clear: liberalism – the prosperity and love gospels – is what has divided the modern church so deeply. They accuse me of being schismatic, overly dogmatic and without compromise. Liberalism has made a total departure from the cross of Christ; and they deny the deity of Christ - hating any altar with blood on it. What liberalism has erected is “Ed” – you may re-write that a thousand times. Liberalism today has made an altar where no sacrifice is to be offered – they just want something to look at; something that makes them feel good about

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themselves. The bloodless Christ of liberalism is nothing in the world but a phony Jesus and an ABOMINATION to the True and Living God – and, if you're in that camp, my friends – God hates you. God says He hates all workers of iniquity.

Jesus will cross the Sea of Galilee soon after the time in which we are studying and, when He does, He is going to come to the Gadarenes – of the tribe of Gad. They're on the wrong side of the Jordan River, completely out of His will. When Jesus goes there, He is going to find a demon possessed man dwelling among tombs - and a tribe in the pig business who asks Jesus to depart from them. Liberalism erects a HUGE – and beautiful – altar of love, prosperity and wealth – but it is worshipping a false Christ without blood, and without blood, there is no remission of sins. There is simply no power available outside of the blood of Christ. The Jesus of liberalism never existed. There is no documentation of their Jesus. Stripping God of His deity strips YOU of the ability to be saved. So, I'm going to ask the question – again – in closing: have you crossed over Jordan? Have you entered into the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ? Why don't you invite someone to join us on this safari? ~



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